



TAP Independent Review of El Salvador's Readiness-Package

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Purpose of TAP's review



PURPOSE

- Assess due process and approach in performing R-Readiness self-assessment in El Salvador
- Assess R-readiness progress and challenges to be addressed when transitioning to ER phase



TAP's R-Package Self-Assessment Review



CONTENT

- Section 1 –S1: Review of self-assessment PROCESS and RESULTS
- Section 2 –S2: Review of PROGRESS on REDD+ Readiness
- Section 3 –S3: Summary Assessment and recommendations



S1- Self-Assessment Process



- Consultations for the self assessment process took place through 2 different workshops with participants that had taken part of previous workshops:
 - WORKSHOP 1. This workshop was designed to evaluate Components 1 and 2. It included participants from civil society and NGO (ie, CCM Morazán, ACUGOLFO, CORDES, FUNSALPRODESE, FIAES, ACOLCHI, MICSUR, CONFRAS), private sector (ie, Berlín Production, CSC), indigenous communities (ie, Mesa Indígena Medio Ambiente -MNIMA, ACOLGUA, CCNIS), international cooperation (ie, GIZ, CCAD), government (ie, MARN)
 - WORKSHOP 2. This workshop was designed to evaluate Components 3 and 4. It included participants from the private sector (ie, Coffee Salvadorian Council -CSC), international cooperation (ie, GIZ), government (ie, Ministry of Agriculture, MARN-Climate Change, REDD, Restoration, Environmental Observatory), research and academy (ie, El Salvador Natural History Museum, El Salvador University).
- Building on El Salvador's comprehensive multi-stakeholder consultation process started in 2012, involving local communities, farmers, indigenous peoples, women groups, NGOs, academia, government officers, plus civil society.
- As part of the REDD-Readiness, there has been a total of 63 activities involving the participation of 206 entities from all over the country, and engaging 2,204 people, 34% being women



S1 - Self-Assessment Process

Average Rating

Component	Subcomponent	Average Rating (Color Coded)
Component 1: Organization and consultation for the preparation period	Subcomponent 1a: National management mechanisms of the REDD + MbA program for the National Strategy for the Restoration of Ecosystems and Landscapes (EN-REP)	Yellow
	Subcomponent 1b: consultation, participation y social difusion	Green
Component 2: formulation of a REDD+ Strategy	Subcomponent: 2a. Evalutaion on Land-use, and causes for changes in land-use, forest sector laws, politics and administration.	Green
	Subcomponent: 2b. Options for REDD+ Strategies	Yellow
	Subcomponent: 2c. Execution Framework	Yellow
	Subcomponent: 2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	Green
Component 3 reference levels for emissions.		Yellow
Component 4 monitoring and evaluation	Subcomponent: 4a. national forest monitoring system	Yellow
	Subcomponent: 4b. Information system for multiple benefits, other Impacts, management and safeguards	Yellow

Most ratings are yellow, indicating progress although in need of further development

**FOREST
CARBON
PARTNERSHIP
INITIATIVE**

S1- Self-Assessment Results

- The participative Self-Assessment Process in El Salvador followed the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework Guidelines. However, the TAP Review would have been easier, had the ratings on the assessment criteria been supported with specific feedback from the consulted working groups; rather it had a compiled report summarizing all comments received per criteria. So it was difficult to determine the different perceptions from the different interest groups.
- Other element to address in the future is the relatively weak participation from the private sector. The larger representation resulted from government, NGOs, and cooperants (73%). This organizational setting could be assessed as a weakness of the process. So, for the next ER phase, one of the TAP recommendations is to incorporate the participation of private sector and local communities in a much stronger way. This is particularly important for next phase, as it will help leverage private capital to the REDD+ implementation objectives.



S2 - Progress Review per Component

Component 1: Readiness, Organization and Consultation (criteria 1-10)



- Good and open consultation process has been taking place, under a strong leadership by MARN, supported by a Cabinet on Environmental Sustainability and Vulnerability at the government level, and by a National Council (CONASAV) also engaging international cooperation agencies, thinktanks, NGOs, and civil society representatives, plus round table with indigenous communities
- El Salvador's MARN has set a strong grievance redress system, where people can easily denounce or bring attention to elements of ecosystem restoration or degradation. A hotline, supported by email, and social media, has been established, and three points of attention have been set in the country. Recent regulation established environmental courts to participate and resolve disputes, which adds stronger capacity to the system.



Still to be done

Component 1: Readiness, Organization and Consultation (criteria 1-10)



- It seems that the local communities are still expecting a more direct retribution or payment for environmental services. The issue may be solved by further information dissemination about the use of funds, and the type of benefits that local communities and ecosystems can attain in the mid to long term
- On the grievance redress, it is not clear that the system may help address other REDD+ related concerns such as the tenure issues, carbon rights, or benefit distribution. For the future ER phases, the system should be ready to provide specific feedback on any information requests or concerns about the REDD+ AbM strategy
- Also, it seems that the information to the indigenous communities could be better conveyed, using culturally appropriated materials and means.

S2- Progress Review per Component

Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation (criteria 11-25)



- Good assessment of land-use
- In El Salvador there is a comprehensive legal framework consistent with the REDD+ AbM Strategy, including the set of relevant safeguards consistent with the UNFCCC's Cancun Agreements. There is a SESA already implemented
- Overall stakeholder endorsement, and political acceptance, which is essential to make a landscape-oriented strategy viable

Still to be done

Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation (criteria 11-25)



- Land tenure and rights on natural resources, carbon rights, or rights for environmental performance payments are key elements of a sound REDD+ strategy that still need work.
- Benefits sharing lacks clarity, and the incentives to protect and enhance forests may be washed away. These topics should be addressed as they are key for determining ER implementation risks.
- It is recommended that a specific work plan for implementation can be developed, including potential organizational arrangements to implement the ER activities and related transactions.

S2- Progress Review per Component

Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels (criteria 26-28)



- Activity Data (AD) have been analyzed according to the IPCC classification. Forests were stratified, and classification and image correction was made using high resolution images and sampling. Emission factors are being determined at national and regional levels, and IPCC default values are used.
- Also, the R-PP includes considerations about uncertainty and about degradation.
- There are linkages to drivers being taken into account (e.g. Consideration of projected crop area expansion).

Still to be done

Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels (criteria 26-28)

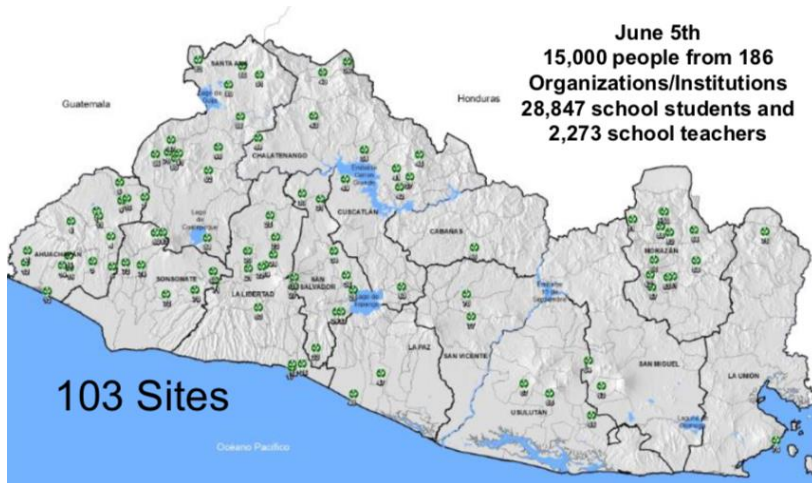
Forest Map of El Salvador 2017



- The calculation of historical and projected changes in each deforestation activity is pending.
- Incorporation of national circumstances is also pending. The process is estimated to be complete by 2019.
- In the future phase, assessment about degradation levels, should abide by the IPCC definition and guidelines.

S4 - Progress Review per Component

Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests, and Safeguards (criteria 29-34)



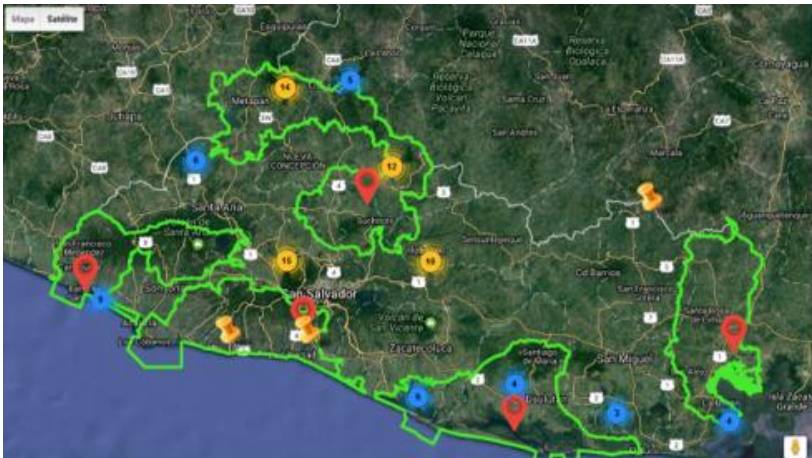
- The National Forest Monitoring System (SNMFS) is being designed and is using methodological approaches and inputs from other relevant work such as the National Forest Inventory, or the methodology for devising the Forest Reference Level of Emissions.
- A conceptual approach for monitoring the REDD+ AbM Strategy has already been designed, integrating information about resources, effects, landscapes and ecosystems, and activities. Also, there are ideas about capability and capacity building needs, and on the overall Safeguard Information System governance.

Still to be done

Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests, and Safeguards (criteria 29-34)

- A TAP recommendation for future forest monitoring phases is to consider SAR imaging, combined with LIDAR and field data, for solving the cloud problem.

- A mechanism for capacity building and for ensuring continuity of the process independent of the different government administrations is required.



S3 - Summary Assessment



Self Assessment Process

the Self-Assessment process in El Salvador has been done in agreement with FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework, it has incorporated the participation of all stakeholders' representation, and has even made participatory consultations possible at the National, and Subnational Levels including participation of civil society, farmers and indigenous peoples (In addition to the other groups long incorporated in the consultation processes).

El Salvador's REDD+ vision is novel, and mainly focused on adaptation through a comprehensive ecosystem restoration plan (Adaptation-based Mitigation -AbM). Under this approach, REDD+ is mainly focused to landscapes, involving a variety of regional stakeholders. The current land title split, in ejidos (small land plots), makes it difficult to develop large landscape projects at once. Consultation processes including the self-assessment have rightly targeted all relevant stakeholders to reflect the views of all interest groups starting with the local beneficiaries.

Overall R-Readiness Progress



Based on the documents consulted, the TAP Reviewer considers that El Salvador's progress on REDD+ readiness is enough to move to the next ER phase.

S3- Recommendations moving forward



Local implementation of REDD+ seems to be a commonly accepted goal, which requires further capacity building and dissemination of information, especially regarding benefits distribution, as ER investments will most probably take place through productive and livelihood activities, as part of the Restoration Plan, as opposed to the traditional payment for environmental services.

During the next ER phase, it is recommended to evaluate how potential private investors in forest land restoration could be framed within the national REDD+ AbM Strategy, while applying REDD+ methodologies to produce carbon credits. This complementary approach could trigger important investments from private and public REDD+ investors, while achieving the national restoration goals. The R-PP already presents an interesting example of a REDD+ project oriented to restore and conserve agroforestry arrangements for coffee croplands.

Identification of co-benefits, and further work on the risks and economic feasibility of REDD+ activities at the local level will be important to incentivize forest conservation and restoration in certain areas.

Finally, it seems the legal and institutional process still represents a challenge that should be addressed as the first steps of the ER phase, in particular the gaps regarding land tenure, carbon rights and benefits distribution. Other areas to quickly address during the next phase are the development of the Reference Emission Levels for Deforestation, and the MRV System.



THANK YOU

